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said compound specifically hybridizes with and inhibits the expression of MEKK4.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being made in response to a telephone interview with Examiner Lacourciere on May 23, 2002. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the SEQ ID NO. of the target sequence. This amendment to the claim is based on teachings throughout the specification as filed. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

Jenemenytuch

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Date: May 23, 2002

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LAW OFFICES

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding MEKK4 (SEO_ID_NO:3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with and inhibits the expression of MEKK4.